

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (CX) Applicable Determination for the Construction and Operation of a Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE) at the Transuranic (TRU) Waste Processing Center (TWPC) on the Oak Ridge Reservation, Lenoir City, Tennessee**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Oak Ridge Office (ORO) proposed activity is to expand the current 30-Ton Crane Bay to include the construction and operation of a Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE). Specific construction activities are provided below. Activities include, but are not limited to, geotechnical and environmental sampling, the relocation of a portion of WIPP Road, creation of a lay down and parking area to support construction activities (to the north of the current 30-ton crane bay), and construction and operation of the CPE.

The TWPC mission is to prepare wastes stored at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) for offsite disposal primarily at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) and/or the Nevada National Security Site (NNSS).

The proposed action will utilize the current TWPC facility and equipment at a developed site with active utilities and readily accessible roads. An area of ~0.7 acres directly contiguous to the developed TWPC site will be used to support the project. This area is needed to allow WIPP Road to be moved to allow placement of the CPE and to establish a construction lay down area in close proximity to the CPE construction project. The scope of work proposed includes the following:

- Collect soil samples from 0-8 feet of depth, evaluating soil contamination for the full suite of SW-846 organic and inorganic constituents, confirmatory sampling and analysis for radiological constituents through gamma scan (includes cesium-137) and strontium-90, and geotechnical testing.
- Create a lay down area and parking area to support construction activities. The lay down area will allow for the safe handling, storage and stockpiling of materials. The parking area will allow for designated safe parking of personnel vehicles and potential for a temporary field office.
- Expand the 30-ton Crane Bay to include relocation of a portion of WIPP Road, the 13.8 KV overhead power lines to the north, and the communications cable to Buildings 7880 and 7880B.
- Construct the Cask Processing Enclosure (CPE) with the attendant material handling and sorting equipment. Existing utilities will be used for the CPE.

The proposed action is needed to add flexibility to waste processing at the TWPC. This action meets the eligibility criteria for conditions that are integral elements of actions covered by categorical exclusions as stated in 10 CFR 1021.

The TWPC completed an Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0305-F) that covered the following actions: construction, operations, and decontamination and decommissioning of a treatment facility for the legacy and newly generated TRU and alpha low level wastes, pending off-site disposal. This EIS found that the DOE needs to treat the legacy TRU and alpha low

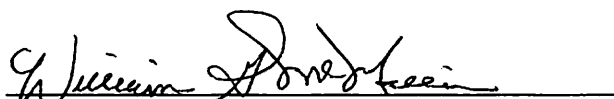
level waste from ORNL in order to reduce the risk to human health and the environment, to comply with legal mandates from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) of the ORNL Site Treatment Plan.

All activities associated with this project will occur outside of the 500 year flood plain and any wetlands. Activities will be conducted to have no adverse effects on the wetland areas.

This activity falls under categorical exclusions per 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B1.13, B3.1 and B6.6.

- B1.13 Construction/acquisition/relocation of onsite pathways, short onsite access roads/railroads
- B3.1 Onsite and offsite site characterization and environmental monitoring, including sampling and characterization of water, soil, rock, or contaminants;
- B6.6 Modification (excluding increases in capacity) of an existing structure used for storing, packaging, or repackaging waste other than high-level radioactive waste or spent nuclear fuel, to handle the same class of waste as currently handled at that structure.

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.



William G. McMillan  
TRU Waste Program Manager DOE-OR

4/19/11  
Date

Based on my review and the recommendation of the DOE-ORO Program Manager, I have determined that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.



Gary S. Hartman  
DOE-ORO NEPA Compliance Officer

4/19/2011  
Date